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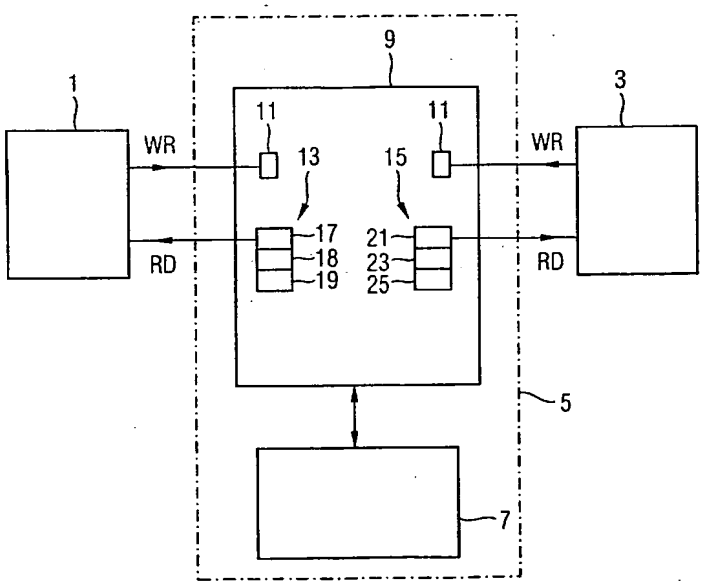
(54) Title: MAILBOX INTERFACE BETWEEN PROCESSORS



(57) Abstract: A mailbox (5) is proposed for transferring data between two processors (1, 3). The mailbox (5) includes a main memory (7) and an ancillary memory (13, 15). The mailbox stores received data packets in the main memory (7), and stores in the ancillary memory (13, 15) those data packets which are to be read out soonest. In response to a read signal, the mailbox (5) transmits data from the ancillary memory (13, 15) and replenishes the ancillary memory (7) by transferring data to it from the main memory (7). This means that the mailbox (5) can transmit data on the clock cycle following reception of the read signal.

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